DEPARTMENT : TRAFFIC		
4.	Jagat Enterprises	06
5.	Devendra Singh	11
	Total :	117

Export rush by steel producers

1667. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export rush by steel producers on account of hardening of global prices could create a domestic shortfall of steel products; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to meet such eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Performance of steel sector

1668. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of steel sector public and private separately for the last three years by standard economic indicators;

(b) the details of major policy initiatives taken recently and results thereof;

(c) the details of action proposed for revival of steel sector and improve significantly its export performance; and

(d) the details of fresh investment proposed in private and public sectors separately, on going and new projects for the current year and Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL

(SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The production performance of public and private sector for the last three years was as follows:—

(Quantity in million tonnes)

Year	Public sector	Private Sector	Total
1997-98	8.54	14.83	23.37
1998-99	7.64	16.16	23.82
1999-2000	8.52	18.19	26.71

(b) and (c) Government has taken several policy measurs in the past 2/3 years for the growth and development of the steel industry and improving export performance. These *inter alia* include the following:—

(1) Enhanced allocation for infrastructure development, housing, power & high ways in the last 2 budgets.

(2) Launching of a National Campaign to increase the consumption of steel particularly in rural and agro based industrial sector.

(3) Setting up of a Steel Exporters' Forum to boost export of steel.

(4) Setting up of an Empowered Committee for assisting research and development activity in steel sector:

(5) Rationalisation of duty credit rates under Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme on most of the iron and steel items to encourage export of iron and steel;

(6) Imposition of Anti-dumping duty on import of HR coils from Ukraine and Russia to check cheap imports.

(7) Exclusion of freight and handling charges for computation of Excise Duty on steel despatched from stockyards of integrated steel plants.

(8) Reduction in duty on raw materials used in steel making; and

(9) Fixation of Floor prices were fixed for certain items of finished steel to restrict cheap imports.

(10) A Project Coordination Group (PCG) has been cosntituted by Government to find ways and means and suggest measures for early completion of the on going iron and steel projects and address various problems of existing/newly commissioned iron and steel plants.

As a result of these measures the Steel Industry has started showing signs of revival after a slow down in growth for 3 years.

(d) As far as private sector is concerned, no fresh propsoal for setting up new/green field steel plants have been received in the recent past. However, in post liberalisation era, All India Financial Institutions have sanctioned financial assistance to 19 new steel plants involving an investment of about Rs. 30,835 crores. Out of these 7 steel plants involving in investment of about Rs.7,832 crores have already been commissioned. 10 steel plants involving an investment of about Rs. 23.452 crores are under various stages of implementation. In public sector the modernisation of SAIL plants has just been completed.

Decision regarding VSP

1669. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2562 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th April, 2000 regarding Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken in the matter; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

Does not arise.